

Serial No.: 10/525,552

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by German Patent document 197 14 839 (the '839 Patent).

Applicant has obtained and herewith submits a third-party translation of relevant portions of DE 197 14 839, particularly Col. 2, line 45 through Col. 4, line 19. The translation confirms Applicant's prior arguments regarding the German language prior art reference.

Applicant previously argued the Office Action was not based on proper identification of elements. Listed below in the center column is the Office Action's identification of the elements numbers (in the left column) from the figures of DE 197 14 839. In the right column are the actual elements as described in the translated text.

| Element No. DE 197 14 839 | Office Action's Identification | Actual Element Identification in DE 197 14 839 |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| 10.9 | Busbar | Dividing Wall |
| 10.10 | Busbar | Further Dividing Wall |
| 10.11 | Busbar | Chamber |
| 10.12 | Busbar | Chamber |
| 40 | Electrically Insulating Busbar Holders | Busbars |
| 30 | Snapped-on Top (for busbar holder) | Cover for the Housing 10 |

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Applicant's claimed invention includes electrically insulating busbar holders (3) that are arranged transversely with respect to busbars (4). The busbars (4) are seated on a top of the busbar holder (3) facing away from the base section (2.1) in a lower part (3.1) of the holder. The busbars (4) are fixed in place by a screwed top or a snapped on top (3.2).

The '839 Patent does not teach or suggest Applicant's recited busbar holders onto which the busbars are seated and fixed in place. In the '839 Patent, the busbars (elements 40, not elements 10.9-10.12) are directly on or adjacent the base of the U-shaped trough of the mounting unit, with no transverse holder element therebetween "for fixing the busbars (4) in place in the mounting unit (2)," as recited in Claim 1. The '839 Patent does not disclose or suggest Applicant's recited "electrically insulating busbar holders (3) [that] are arranged transversely with respect to the busbars (4) in a trough."

As the '839 Patent does not teach or suggest Applicant's recited busbar holders, the '839 Patent does not anticipate Applicant's claimed invention. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

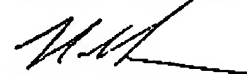
Conclusion

Applicant intends to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicant has not addressed in this response, Applicant's undersigned attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner.

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Applicant sincerely believes that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully requests early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Rush translation of marked portions of DE 197 14 839 C1

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A bus bar system with three bus bars 40, which are arranged parallel side-by-side, is represented in Fig. 1. On their back, the bus bars 40 are covered by means of a cover 41. To this end, the cover 41 has a bottom 42, on whose front and rear ends respectively two locking legs 43, 45 [are located]. The two snap-in legs of one side are respectively spaced apart parallel from each other. The outer locking leg 43 has an outwardly oriented locking protrusion 44, and the inner locking leg 45 an inwardly oriented locking protrusion 46. A reception chamber for locking feet 10.4, or locking legs 10.6 of the adapter is provided between the two locking legs 43, 45. The insertion movement of the snap-in feet 10.4, or of the locking leg 10.6 into this receptacle is limited by means of a stop 47. A further locking leg 10.5 is arranged on the adapter parallel with the locking leg 10.6 locked in place in the receptacle. The locking leg 10.5 is locked behind the locking protrusion 47 of the outer locking leg 43 of the cover 41. This locking mechanism is represented in detail in Fig. 3. As can be seen from Fig. 3, the two locking legs 10.5 and 10.6 are formed as one piece on the housing 10 made of plastic.

Fig. 1 furthermore shows that the housing 10 of the adapter has two lateral walls 10.1, which rise on both sides from the bottom 10.16. Holders 10.8 for the connecting contacts 20 are attached to the bottom 10.16. In the present example, threaded receptacles for fuses are used as connecting contacts. However, the invention is not limited to this embodiment variation alone. Instead, any arbitrarily designed connecting contacts 20 can be employed. It is the function of the connecting contacts to provide a contact between the associated bus bars 40 and a connecting line 20.2.

In the present case, the connecting line 20.2 is embodied as a woven copper strip, which can be placed without insulation

into chambers 10.11, 10.12 of the housing 10.

The chambers 10.11, 10.12 are separated from each other by means of a dividing wall 10.9. A further dividing wall 10.10 separates the contact element 20 located farthest toward the front from the chamber 10.12. The two chambers 10.11, 10.12 extend laterally of the housing 10 transversely to the longitudinal extension of the bus bars 40. Because of this, the connecting contacts 20 can be arranged in a row one behind the other. In this case the dimensions of the chambers 10.11, 10.12 are such that the connecting line 20.2, which is rectangular in cross section, can be placed standing on edge. Since the connecting line 20.2 is made of a flexible material, it can easily follow the bends in the chamber 10.11, 10.12. A connecting line 20.2 introduced into the chamber 10.12 can be seen in Fig. 2.

A unit consisting of the contact element 20, connecting line 20.2 and binder post 20.9 is furthermore represented in Fig. 1. The connecting contact 20 is fastened by means of a material-to-material connection on one end of the connecting line 20.2, for example welded on it. To this end, the connecting contact has a laterally protruding arm, which makes a transition into an angled-off contact foot. The connecting line 20.1 is fastened on this angled-off contact foot. At its other end, the connecting line 20.1 is fixed in place on a binder bridge 20.3 of the binder post 20.9. The binder bridge 20.3 has a horizontal leg 20.4, which has been placed on the bottom 10.16 of the housing 10. Fixation in place of the leg 20.4 is accomplished by means of a clamping screw 20.7, which has been introduced into an opening of the leg 20.4 and screwed into a screw receptacle 10.15 of the bottom 10.16. Following the leg 20.4, the binder bridge 20.3 makes a transition into a vertical strip 20.5. The connecting line 20.2 is connected to the vertical strip 20.5. A horizontal pressure plate 20.6 is bent off the vertical strip 20.5. By means of this the binder bridge 20.3 is introduced into a binder housing of the binder post

20.9. This introduction movement is shown in dashed lines in Fig. 1. A clamping screw 20.8 is used for fixing the binder bridge 20.3 on its pressure plate 20.6.

The component constituted by the finished assembled binder post 20.9, connecting line 20.2 and contact element 20 can be installed as a unit in the housing 10. To this end, the connecting line 20.2 is placed into its associated chamber 10.11, 10.12. The contact element 20 comes to rest on its holder 10.8. For fixing the contact element in place, a fastening screw 20.11 is screwed from the direction of the underside of the housing into an appropriately threaded receiver of the contact element 20.

The binder post 20.3 is inserted into binder post holders 10.13. The binder post holders 10.13 have facing guide grooves 10.14, which in their longitudinal extension are arranged vertically in respect to the bottom 10.16 of the housing 10. The binder post 10.9 can be introduced with lateral guide faces 20.10 into these guide grooves. Thereafter the binder post bridge 20.3 is screwed together by means of the clamping screw 20.7 (see Fig. 2).

A cover 30 is used for fixing the binder post 20.9 in place in the vertical direction. The top of the housing 10 can be covered by means of the cover 30. The cover 30 has protrusions, not visible, which keep the binder posts 20.9 in place when the cover 30 has been installed. The cover 30 itself can be locked or screwed together with the housing 10. Openings 33 are located in the upper side of the cover 30, which provide access to the contact element 20. Furthermore, three side-by-side located tool receivers 32 have been used. The clamping screws 20.8 of the binder posts 20.9. Outlet lines can be brought through cable ducts 31 to the binder posts 20.9 and fixed in place by means of the clamping screws 20.9.

A recessed grip has been cut into the front face 10.2 underneath the bottom 10.15 for easier handling of the housing 10.

The adapter can be grasped by this and pulled out of the locking connection 10.4, 43, 45.